

**Calendar No. 150**

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. RES. 103**

**RESOLUTION**

To proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

JULY 20 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995  
Reported without amendment

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5, 1995

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY 20 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995

Reported by Mr. HATCH without amendment

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**RESOLUTION**

To proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, the nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and

against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families, their communities, and institutions such as schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of the individual citizens comprising the nation;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character, and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, efforts by religious institutions, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable role youth in the United States play in the present and future of the United States, and to recognize that character plays an important role in the future of the United States;

Whereas, in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics

scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that “Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society”;

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, and civic virtue and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that “The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.”;

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially the individuals and organizations that have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate proclaims the week of Oc-  
2 tober 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character  
3 Counts Week, and requests the President to issue a proc-  
4 lamation calling upon the people of the United States and  
5 interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of char-  
6 acter and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies  
7 and activities.